

My

T H E H E A L T H


of the
RURAL DISTRICT OF
L U T T E R W O R T H

Leicestershire

1955



The ANNUAL REPORT
of the Medical Officer of Health
and the Chief Sanitary Inspector



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RURAL DISTRICT OF LUTTERWORTH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

D.H. McFarland, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(Resigned 14th December 1955)

with comments by

A.C. Ross, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed 1st January 1956)

together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

H.G. McNaught, M.I.Mun.E., A.M.P.T.I., M.R.S.H.

for the

YEAR

1955

LUTTERWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee 1955

L.G.W. Pickering, Chairman

K. Egan, Vice-Chairman

E.H. Illson, Chairman of the Council (ex-officio)

J.A. Robinson, Vice-Chairman of the Council (ex-officio)

S.T. Brown

J.A. d'O. Reynolds

W.P. Cooke

F. Shaw

E.J. Herbert

T. Stevens

F. Howkins

W.P. Widdowson

The Revd. W.H. Pearce-Batten

J.G. Williams

The Revd. A.H. Procter

J.L. Wright

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Officers and Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

D.H. McFarland, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(Resigned 14th December 1955)

A.C. Ross, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed 1st January 1956)

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector:

H.G. McNaught, M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

K.C. Brooke, Cert.R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B., Dip.R.I.P.H. & H.

Clerk (Part-Time): Mrs. B.M. Laughton.

To the Chairman and Members of
Lutterworth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the
Health of the District for the year 1955.

You will appreciate that this Report is for the period
when my predecessor, Doctor L.H. McFarland, was your Medical
Officer of Health.

The Vital Statistics present a satisfactory position.
There was only one infant death during the year.

Infectious diseases show a year without major incidence
apart from an epidemic of Measles in the Spring.

In conclusion, I am sure Doctor McFarland would wish me
to express on his behalf, his gratitude to the Chairman and
Members of the Public Health Committee for their help during
the year.

I should also like to thank the staff of the Health
Department for their willing assistance.

I am Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

Andrew C. Ross,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	79	81	160
Illegitimate	5	2	7
Totals	84	83	167

BIRTH RATE

13.8 per 1,000 estimated population

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
14.6	12.7	12.7	14.9	15.0	14.9	14.9	14.1	16.4	19.3	21.1

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
17.9	20.0	21.6	20.5	17.9	17.9	17.0	16.2	16.6	16.0	13.8

The birth rate for England and Wales was 15.0 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes	74	77	151

DEATH RATE

12.5 per 1,000 estimated population

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
10.9	13.9	13.7	14.1	11.6	12.7	12.5	13.0	10.8	14.2	11.7

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
11.0	12.4	10.0	11.5	11.8	11.0	11.1	13.8	11.7	11.8	12.5

The death rate of 12.5 per 1,000 estimated population represents a slight increase on last year.

In general, the death rate has not altered significantly over the last twenty years.

The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7 per 1,000 estimated population.

The commonest causes of death (see Page 12) were:-

- i) Heart disease and diseases of the circulatory system.
- ii) Cancer.
- iii) Vascular lesions of the circulatory system.

It should be observed that motor vehicle accidents accounted for 3 deaths during the year and that there were no deaths attributable to pregnancy and childbirth.

DEATHS PER MONTH OVER FOUR YEARS

MONTH	1955	1954	1953	1952
January	12	16	13	13
February	14	16	19	24
March	18	14	18	16
April	14	13	19	12
May	9	13	9	12
June	15	6	10	5
July	9	5	3	12
August	16	9	9	7
September	10	4	5	13
October	10	14	10	16
November	15	10	13	14
December	9	21	12	19

Cancer Mortality Rate (all forms) taken in triennial periods

1928 - 30	.....	1.8	1943 - 45	.....	1.4
1931 - 33	.....	1.9	1946 - 48	.....	1.3
1934 - 36	.....	1.7	1949 - 51	.....	1.9
1937 - 39	.....	1.8	1952 - 54	.....	1.4
1940 - 42	.....	1.7	1955	.....	2.7

There were 25 deaths from cancer this year. This figure represents an increase of 9 on last year.

There were no deaths of cancer of the breast in women.

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	0
Totals	-	1	1

Infant Mortality Rate

5.9 per 1,000 live births

1925 -27	1928 -30	1931 -33	1934 -36	1937 -39	1940 -42	1943 -45	1946 -48	1949 -51	1952 -54	1955
60	62	54	40	47	49	32	29	29	24	6

As the infant population of Lutterworth represents a very small sample of the total infant population, this figure of 5.9 per 1,000 live births is liable to statistical error.

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	0
Totals	-	1	1

Neonatal Death Rate

5.9 per 1,000 live births

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	0
Totals	2	2	4

Still Birth Rate

23.3 per 1,000 (live & still) births

The cause of death in the one case of the infant under four weeks of age was prematurity. There were four stillbirths.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 24.9.

GENERAL STATISTICS - 1955

Area of District	46,733 acres
Population (Estimated Mid-Year)	12,060
Number of Occupied Houses	3,995
Rateable Value (31st March, 1956)	£56,956
Product of Penny Rate	£220

Population

The population for 1954 was estimated at 11,970. It is apparent from the figures that the increase of population was 90.

Age Incidence of Death

Age	Males	Females	Totals	Percentage
Under 4 weeks	-	1	1	0.66
4 weeks - 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 year - 4 years	-	1	1	0.66
5 - 14 "	1	-	1	0.66
15 - 24 "	1	-	1	0.66
25 - 34 "	1	1	2	1.32
35 - 44 "	-	1	1	0.66
45 - 54 "	3	4	7	4.63
55 - 64 "	17	9	26	17.21
65 - 74 "	18	21	39	25.82)
75 - 84 "	22	20	42	27.81)
85 - 94 "	11	19	30	19.86)
95 - 100 "	-	-	-	-
100 +	-	-	-	-

By looking at the table, it will be seen that 73.49% of those who died exceeded the age of 65 years.

We are indeed fast becoming a nation with a high proportion of elderly people. The whole question of old age is puzzling and little understood.

As the years go by medical research may well find a way of preventing the onset of old age, and, as a result, many of us will remain active in mind and body well into the ninth decade of life.

Perhaps this, as is probable, will happen gradually as the causes of senility are removed. The prospect of permanent youth will then no longer be a dream but a reality.

Whether this will prove to be a blessing to mankind is a question which can safely be left to future generations. Will they in their turn curse the scientists who made this possible as we now curse the inventors of the hydrogen bomb?

Increase of Births over Deaths

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
40	-12	-10	6	35	23	23	12	64	57	102

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
75	83	140	114	72	81	70	29	58	50	16

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases
notified during the year 1955

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified at Ages								TOTAL DEATHS
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25- 45 yrs.	45- 65 yrs.	65 & up- wards	
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	0
Whooping Cough	5	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	0
Diphtheria	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Measles	344	9	114	215	4	1	1	-	1
Pneumonia	14	-	1	1	1	1	6	4	6
Meningococcal Infection	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Poliomyelitis	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Dysentery	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Enteric Fever	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Food Poisoning	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0

Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Average per Year in Triennial Periods

	1928 - 1930	1931 - 1933	1934 - 1936	1937 - 1939	1940 - 1942	1943 - 1945	1946 - 1948	1949 - 1951	1952 - 1954	1955
Smallpox	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet Fever	41	20	32	9	10	11	9	5	2	3
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	3	13	8	22	32	5
Diphtheria	9	2	5	2	8	0.3	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	3	38	65	115	56	344
Pneumonia	13	15	7	13	3	9	9	4	14	14
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	0.3	-
Poliomyelitis	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.3	-	-	0.7	1	0.3	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0.3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.7	1	0.7	3	-	1	0.3	0.3	1	-
Enteric Fever	2	-	0.3	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	-
Erysipelas	2	1	2	3	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.3	2	4

General Comment

The total incidence of infectious diseases in 1955 is higher than in the previous year.

This is largely due to an epidemic of measles in the Spring when a total of 344 cases were notified.

There were 5 cases of whooping cough and 14 of pneumonia: the majority of the cases of pneumonia occurred in the age group 45-70.

It will be noted that there were no cases of diphtheria, typhoid, poliomyelitis, and meningitis during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of Children Immunised

YEAR	Primary			Re-immunised	Number of babies born during preceding year minus deaths under 1 year
	Under 5	5-14	Total		
1947	196	26	222	189	213
1948	186	45	231	415	240
1949	191	7	198	58	239
1950	143	12	155	60	206
1951	137	12	149	90	202
1952	144	5	149	66	195
1953	139	4	143	126	186
1954	154	3	157	106	195
1955	123	4	127	101	187

Tuberculosis

Four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

There were two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Number of New Cases and Total on Register

	Pulmonary		Other Forms of Tuberculosis	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
New Cases	4	0	1	0
Total on Register at 31st December 1955	31	16	8	3
TOTAL	47		11	

DEATH FROM ALL CAUSES

	1955		
	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	2	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	1	1
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	0	5
11. " " lung, bronchus	4	1	5
12. " " breast	0	0	0
13. " " uterus	0	0	0
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	9	6	15
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	2	2
16. Diabetes	0	0	0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	11	17
18. Coronary disease, angina	12	8	20
19. Hypertension with heart disease	0	4	4
20. Other heart disease	12	24	36
21. Other circulatory disease	3	1	4
22. Influenza	0	0	0
23. Pneumonia	2	4	6
24. Bronchitis	4	2	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	5
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	0	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	0	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	2	0	2
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	6	6	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	0	3
34. All other accidents	0	1	1
35. Suicide	0	2	2
36. Homicide & operations of war	0	0	0
<u>TOTAL</u>	74	77	151

REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR

1955

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a brief report on the work of the Health Department during the Year 1955.

HOUSING

New Dwellings

During the year 72 permanent houses were completed by the Council, and during the same period, 24 houses were built by private enterprise.

At the 31st December, there were 36 permanent houses in course of erection by the Council and 6 by private enterprise.

Converted Army Camps

The dismantling of the hutted camp at Ullesthorpe Court was continued. Two more huts were sold and removed, and only 3 now remain.

It is the Council's wish that these should be cleared as soon as possible and the land returned to its original owner and to its original use for agricultural purposes.

Leicester Road Estate - Married Quarters

In 1942, 100 plasterboard huts were erected on this estate to house key workers for Ordnance Factories which were then established in Lutterworth.

These bungalows at the end of the war were in the ownership of the Ministry of Works, but, at a later date, were purchased by the Council and have since been maintained by them.

Their useful life has now expired, and, after consultation with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, it has been decided that these will be replaced, over a period of years, with permanent houses.

In order to have the first bungalows demolished, 12 permanent houses were built and completed during the year on an adjacent site. Arrangements are in hand for the demolition of 16 bungalows and the replacement with permanent houses.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954. Section 1

As a preliminary to formulating a slum clearance programme, some 450 houses in the district were inspected.

As a result of this, the estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation was put at 347, and it is anticipated that 200 of these will be dealt with by way of demolition and clearance orders during the next five years.

HOUSING ACT, 1949 and 1952

Improvement Grants

Further applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year and in 16 cases grants were approved.

The majority of these, as in the previous year, were from owner-occupiers.

HOUSING CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS, 1925

Article 31

1.	The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.	369
2.	The number of houses, the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	7
3.	The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders	3
4.	The number of notices served requiring the execution of works.	19
5.	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.	NIL
6.	The number of demolition or closing orders made.	5
7.	The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted.	NIL
8.	The number of houses demolished.	NIL

WATER SUPPLY

Misterton Works, Lutterworth

During the year no shortage from this source was experienced and samples which were taken showed that the quality had been maintained.

The only mains extension on this supply was the laying of a new 4" main between the villages of Walcote and South Kilworth. This was completed during the year.

Salt Saturator

A new underground salt saturator was completed during the year, thus enabling salt for softening purposes to be bought in bulk and to be tipped into the underground tank without any further handling, and consequently saving a considerable amount of time and money.

Uilesthorpe

During the month of August there was a temporary shortage of water in this village, but, after warning notices were distributed throughout the area of supply, there was a marked decrease in consumption with the result that the yield from the springs was adequate to meet the demand.

Northern and Eastern Water Supply Scheme

Further progress was made on this scheme and the storage reservoir at Knaptoft, having a capacity of 500,000 gallons, was completed and a new 9" main was laid direct from this reservoir to Bruntingthorpe Aerodrome.

In addition, the existing main was extended from Peatling Parva to Gilmorton, a distance of some one-and-a-half miles.

In addition to this work, which was carried out by this Council, the Leicester City Water Department completed the Pumping Station on the Arnesby parish boundary to boost the water to the new reservoir at Knaptoft.

Water Samples

Thirteen samples of water were taken from public supplies. Of these, 2 were submitted for chemical analysis and the remainder for bacteriological examination, and they all proved to be satisfactory.

In addition, 17 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination from private sources. Of these, 13 proved to be unsatisfactory and 4 satisfactory. Where samples proved to be unsatisfactory, appropriate action was taken.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

During the year 89 samples of milk were taken for biological purposes. These resulted in 3 Stoppage Notices being served where *Brucella Abortus* had been isolated.

In one case, the Producer/Retailer went out of business, and, in the other cases, the cows were withdrawn and isolated from the herd.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

During the year one slaughterhouse was discontinued and 9 licensed slaughterhouses are in regular use.

The total number of animals examined after slaughter during the year numbered 2,201.

The quality of meat produced in the area continues to be of a very high standard as will be seen from the table below.

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	286	4	8	1014	889	-
Number inspected	286	4	8	1014	889	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcasses condemned	NIL	1	-	5	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	-	-	5	13	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	4.89	25	-	0.986	1.69	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	-	17	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.45	-	-	1.91	-	-
Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Good progress was maintained in the provision of Sewage Disposal Works for the villages of Ullesthorpe, Claybrooke Magna, and Claybrooke Parva.

The laying of sewers in the villages of Claybrooke Magna and Claybrooke Parva was completed, and at the Sewage Disposal Works concreting the detritus and storm water tanks was finished, but, owing to the inclement weather, this work had to be stopped and the work of constructing sewers in Ullesthorpe village was proceeded with.

The total value of work certified to the end of the year was £34,000.

SCAVENGING

Although the Council own three refuse collecting vehicles and two cesspool emptiers, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain a seven-day service owing to labour problems.

Because of the shortage of a driver, one of the cesspool emptiers had to be withdrawn from service and could only be used occasionally for the emptying of cesspools, and it was only by the working of overtime that a nine-day service was possible.

On dry refuse collection, arrangements have been made for the replacement of one of the vehicles which has become uneconomical to maintain.

GENERAL

During the year regular inspections have been carried out as shown in the table on the opposite page and appropriate action taken.

	Number of Inspections
Animal Keeping	3
Bakehouses	8
Dairies	41
Drainage Works	326
Dwelling-Houses (all purposes)	670
Food Premises	228
Offensive Trades	NIL
Refuse Collection & Disposal	103
Rodent Control	9
Schools	2
Shops	224
Slaughterhouses & Meat Inspection	488
Smoke Observations	2
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	8
Verminous & Dirty Premises	5
Water Supplies	92
Workshops, Outworkers, etc.	27
Other Inspections	313
TOTAL	2,549

I am,

Yours obediently,

H.G. MCNAUGHT,

Engineer, Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

